LEGEND

Recommendations Section
Recap of recommendations are based on the discussion and consensus reached during the interactive workshop.

Workshop Discussion Section
o   This is a summary of the discussion during the conversation based on the 3 core questions posed:
1.   Which measures need to be considered by the G20 heads of state to achieve the goal of fostering economic growth while simultaneously pursuing social and environmental goals?
2.   How can we create stronger international cooperation while respecting cultural and regional identity and diversity?
3.   How should G20 political leaders ensure that everyone stands to benefit from global development?

o   Documentation of conversation was altered to provide clarity to readers as a formal written document. The Bolded text is the topic heading with the subtopics and additional details discussed below:
- ("text") Added for clarity – might have been evident as part of conversation.
- Indent = same concept/topic but additional points.

o   Facilitator: Mr. Chad Laurent, Vice President, Meister Consultants Group, Inc.
Meister Consultants Group, Inc. (MCG) is a Boston-based firm specializing in local government climate change, clean energy, and sustainability consulting, and is an international leader in managing complex public and stakeholder engagement processes. Our team combines strong technical expertise with proven engagement techniques to develop comprehensive policies, programs, and strategies. MCG's clients range from federal, state and local governments; to multi-national finance institutions and Fortune 500 companies; and to foundations and leading sustainability non-profits and networks.

Since its formation in 2008, MCG has been on the forefront of local-level climate and energy planning in the U.S. MCG has collaborated with Boston, New York City, Denver, San Francisco, and other leading cities on the development of climate plans, sustainability strategies, and stakeholder and community engagement processes. To date, MCG has worked with over 100 local governments across the U.S. and provided clean energy technical assistance and training to over a thousand municipal officials and staff.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Strengthening Governance at all levels of government (cities, states, nations)
1.   Future Vision to replace the current economic paradigm.
- Common understanding of success as guidance for funding.
- Workforce development or minimum income to assist workers experiencing unemployment related to structural shifts in the economic sectors.
2.   Leadership either from G20 or other supranational organization.
- Create accountability for national targets.

- Continue to mitigate corruption and weak national institutions.

Focus on Cities

(cities are) expected to have the largest population centers and need the capacity to plan in an uncertain future. Resiliency planning challenges include mitigation for rising sea levels and absorb displaced/ migrating groups.

- Additional funding for implementation after the studies and pilot programs are complete. Funding levels currently insufficient to support large scale implementation.
- Mechanism for sharing lessons learned or current best practices

WORKSHOP DISCUSSION

Perceive a paradigm shift: start with defining sustainability and will be very different depending on the location for example London vs. Calcutta vs. Juneau, Alaska. Considerations for defining sustainability.

- o Sustainability defined as interconnections among economy, society and environment. Local context is important to sustainability definition.
- o Need to set benchmarks and have politicians' will to achieve sustainability goals

1. <u>What is the change model for the paradigm shift?</u>
Taking the definition to create change models to get there (to a future state). Expectation is most of the global population will live in cities in the future. Suggestion is to start actions, evaluate effectiveness and move successful programs forward with more money and suggested policies for other communities.

- Largest dilemma – society requires stability, but the exact future impacts of climate change are uncertain. This means solutions must be dynamic and flexible to manage the uncertainty.
- Organizations to assist such as C40? Question: Is the C40 is an organic network?
  - o C40 is a network of the world's megacities committed to addressing climate change.

2. <u>Cities could act as drivers</u> of change and be a resource to assist with climate resiliency.
- Context of jurisdiction available to cities
- Performance under stress is variable and some seem to have less where-withal than others
  - o Example of cities with poor resiliency included New Orleans' response to hurricane Katrina; Chicago's response to the Great Recession.
- Majority of current cities are coastal, which means that a portion of city's economies are driven by oceans including tourism and marine fisheries. Cities need to build resilience to cope with sea level rise. Ties to displacement of population as part of climate change.
  - o Question: Do we mitigate or migrate (coastal city populations)?

3. **(Restatement):** If cities are going to be a more dominant (community type) for people, and given current challenges cities (already) face, does it make sense to ground policy proposals on certain benchmarks?
    o An example: Success criteria could include a certain percent of residents as middleclass, safe environment such as clean air and resources utilized by the city would be no more than 100 miles from the city center.
        • Cities will need to have systems that can adapt to change.
        • How to build resilience of cities?
            • Responsibility of local community to act – *even in US, Federal government does not have jurisdiction on a lot of these issues.*
                o Concern: Climate based displacement.
                    ▪ For a city to be considered sustainable city it must be able to absorb large influx of migrating populations.
            • Questions: Can we develop local "blue prints" or base template for communities to review and select policies or actions applicable to their situation?
                o How do you drive local participation?
                    ▪ How do create a city culture that has organic growth and evolution?
                o Need hundreds of semi-urban areas to assist with the drive toward a sustainable future?

How to start process or create a spark? Usually either bottom up or top down framework (such as G20)
    o Statement of Current Situation
        o Majority of cities lack the resources to implement (required changes)
        o Need for city -action funding
            ▪ Current funding exists for studies and pilot programs, but far less and insufficient (funds) to implement successful pilot programs.
        o Provide city independence by providing local leaders with partners to assist with resources
            ▪ One option is former Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships, Inc (NEEP) and (create a) cities network as a master model.

1. <u>Workforce development</u> and jobs are key to all (3 questions)
    o Even without climate change, there remains a rapid shift in job skills demanded by the market, which is related to digitalization (aka more people available for work but less need for employees by companies).
    o (This) will require infrastructure to retrain workers for this new economy – people have a (universal) need that for a job/work, and income/resources to take care of their families.
    o (Is there a) willingness to decouple economy and personal income?
        o Concept is to have a minimum income guaranteed to individuals with the combination of earned income and government provided subsidies or services.
        o Ex. Swiss have a guarantee for minimum income regardless of work based on the need to keep the economy healthy.

- o <u>Discussion</u> – U.S. coal worker force is 50,000 employees. W. Virginia's economy (is dependent on the coal industry) has been at the bottom (performance) of US states for 5 (decades) regardless if the industry was busting, booming or rebuilding
  - (Policies need to) consider the world view of the "left behind" workers as part of workforce development.
  - How would we manage the transition for workers if the industry were to go away? One time payout is not the same as building skills and transitioning to the next career.
    - o (Displaced workers) do not find the (unemployment)experience fulfilling either.
      - o Ex. (Changing occupation from) coal to urban farming is better for all and worker in interview was happier
      - o Funding can be any source globally so that workers could be supported by their own nation or another country.

<u>(Statement): Current economic paradigms are not sustainable.</u>
1. Model is not working (for all/most) but powerful vesting interests who are clinging to it
   - o (Change) is not one answer, but link as a system among economic, social and environmental considerations (three broad questions).
   - o What is the new 21st century economic paradigm?
2. How best to keep accountability by G20 – so far there have been no consequences for not meeting pledges. (Historically) could stop and say "just kidding".
   - o G20 role
     - o Knowledge and Resource Sharing Hub
     - o Leading by example
3. Argue climate change has significant human right impacts
   - o Boston or Cambridge are leaders but still have not reached a sustainable future, even with their advantages (progressive, high education & citizen engagement)
     - Question is how do (cities) with lesser skills (/resources) "make it" or create a sustainable city?
   - o (Statement): New Delhi – there are smaller challenges in Massachusetts (wealthy) compared to far worse issues in India
     - Making small efforts and gaining publicity but "love these issues"
     - Public schools not teaching for U.S. (modern) job skills

(Transition to Governance issues):
- o Education of girls and women will lead to empowerment – G20 role is to learn from Europe or developed nations.
  - o (Balance) between lead by example where Brazil has some programs with 76% support of local population versus Westerners trying to lead solutions given cultural differences
  - o Local activism to allow girls to attend built schools. Address both the culture and language (India has English as official language plus one per state, but does not have one universal spoken language).
- o Corruption – perpetuates in societies because those in power benefit and have the influence to maintain large negative feedback loops a.k.a. resist changes that would benefit broader society.

- o Ex. Projects for renewable electricity distribution where only half of raised funds went to project and rest to corruption.
  - o Weak systems – (People were) hopeful at start of Arab spring.
- o Can't throw funds at issues.
  - o Need to change perceptions – example is Somaliland documentary.
    - ▪ Documentary link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yaPv6pD-pNI
  - o Where the problems are: (IF) everyone wants to have the Western life style – how do we say "no"?
  - o Need a future vision: policies of change and local power to resist (external influences)

(International Aspects):
U.S. had taken mantle of world leader (for climate change). Who's willing to lead the international community going forward?

1. Current White House will focus more on domestic issues for the next four years
   - ▪ US Cities and neighborhoods can continue independent of Washington DC (because they have jurisdiction to pass laws and raise taxes).
2. Would China step in, or would other nations lead for a more regional focus rather than US style (which has been to act as a single superpower).
   - • European hope was that by dropping borders that would create a stronger economy.

Economy is the principal driver

1. Need to internalize carbon to the economic systems.
   - ▪ Can we pair carbon tax collected from industry to support establishment/expansion of more climate appropriate solutions and assist impacted industries with the transition (aka fossil fuel to electrical cars)?
   - ▪ Vested interests (industrial economy) are blocking changes.